

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 10-14, 15-28, 44-47, 66, 67, 77-95 without prejudice.

Also, please amend claims 1, 4, 65, 68, 72, and 73 and add new claims 98-127 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for establishing the validity of a display created by a general purpose creation device, said method comprising the steps of:

placing in said device media upon which information may be created, said media having preestablished thereon data which is unique to said media; and

communicating at least a portion of said preestablished data to a location independent from said device, said independent location operable to create on said media a security indicia, said security indicia created in part by information contained in said preestablished media data and whereby said security indicia is validatable at a subsequent time partially under control of data contained in said preestablished media [data.] data;

wherein said media is paper, and wherein said device is a general purpose printer;

wherein said paper is divided into sections, each section adapted for printing thereon information pertaining to a different function, each such function having associated therewith a security indicia.

4. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 1 wherein at least one portion of at least one of said sections contains means for allowing at least that section to become disassociated from the other sections.

9. (Amended) The method of claim [7] 8 wherein said key information is contained in a machine readable portion of said preestablished data.

65. (Amended) A system for establishing the validity of a display, said system comprising:

a device for creating said display on media containing preestablished data which is unique to said media; and

communicating at least a portion of said preestablished data to a location independent from said creation device, said independent location operable to create on said media in conjunction with said creation device a security indicia, as part of a human readable display, said security indicia created in part by information contained in said preestablished media data and whereby said security indicia is validatable at a subsequent time partially under control of data contained in said preestablished media [data.] data;

wherein said media is paper, and wherein said device is a nonsecure printer;

wherein said paper is divided into sections, each section adapted for printing thereon information pertaining to a different display, each such display having associated therewith a security indicia.

68. (Amended) The system of claim [67] 65 wherein each said display is generated from the same preestablished data.

72. (Amended) The system of claim [67] 65 further including the step of disconnecting each of said sections so that each said section can be used independently from the other said sections.

73. (Amended) The system of claim [67] 65 wherein the sections control the delivery of mail pieces when said security indicia is created thereon.

Please add new claims 98-127 as follows:

98. (New) A method of creating a document on a stock that comprises a unique identifier, wherein authenticity of the document will be verified at a time subsequent to creation of said document, said method comprising:

receiving said unique identifier, wherein said unique identifier comprises an encryption key;

verifying that said unique identifier is valid;

creating transaction information to be used by a consumer to complete a commercial transaction;

encrypting at least a portion of said transaction information utilizing said encryption key; and

communicating said transaction information including said encrypted portion to cause said transaction information to be printed on said stock.

99. (New) The method of claim 98 wherein said step of verifying includes accessing a database of previous commercial transactions to determine whether the unique code has been previously used in connection with another commercial transaction.

100. (New) The method of claim 98 wherein said step of verifying includes accessing a database to determine whether the unique code is within an acceptable range for an identified consumer.

101. (New) The method of claim 98 wherein said step of communicating transaction information comprises communicating printable information that defines at least a bar code, wherein said bar code comprises authentication information encrypted by said encryption key.

102. (New) The method of claim 101 wherein said authentication information includes information to authenticate a transportation ticket.

103. (New) The method of claim 98 wherein said document is used as a check for payment pursuant to said commercial transaction.

104. (New) The method of claim 98 wherein said stock is located at a location remote from a location where the steps of receiving, verifying, creating, encrypting, and communicating are performed.

105. (New) A system for creating a document on a stock that comprises a unique identifier wherein authenticity of the document will be verified at a time subsequent to creation of said document, comprising:

means for receiving said unique identifier, wherein said unique identifier comprises an encryption key;

means for verifying that said unique identifier is valid;

means for creating transaction information, wherein said transaction information includes information to facilitate completion of a commercial transaction;

means for encrypting at least a portion of said transaction information utilizing said encryption key; and

means for communicating said transaction information including said encrypted portion to cause said transaction information to be printed on said stock.

106. (New) The system of claim 105 wherein said means for verifying accesses a database of previous commercial transactions to determine whether the unique code has been previously used in connection with another commercial transaction.

107. (New) The system of claim 105 wherein said means for verifying accesses a database to determine whether the unique code is within an acceptable range for an identified consumer.

108. (New) The system of claim 105 wherein said means for communicating transaction information communicates printable information that defines at least a bar code, wherein said bar code comprises authentication information encrypted by said encryption key.

109. (New) The system of claim 108 wherein said authentication information includes information to authenticate a transportation ticket.

110. (New) The system of claim 105 wherein said document is a check for payment pursuant to said commercial transaction.

111. (New) The system of claim 105 wherein said stock is located at a location remote from a location where said means for receiving, means for verifying, means for creating, means for encrypting, and means for communicating are located.

112. (New) A method for verifying the authenticity of a document, wherein said document was previously created on a stock, comprising:

decoding a first indicia, that was pre-printed on said stock before creation of said document, to determine a unique code, wherein said unique code includes an encryption key;

decoding a second indicia that is included in said document to determine encrypted authentication information;

decrypting said encrypted authentication information in accordance with said encryption key; and

selectively permitting a consumer to complete a commercial transaction in accordance with said authentication information.

113. (New) The method of claim 112 further comprising:

determining whether said unique code has been previously used to complete another commercial transaction.

114. (New) The method of claim 112 further comprising:
determining whether said unique code is within an acceptable range for said consumer.
115. (New) The method of claim 112 wherein said first indicia comprises a bar code.
116. (New) The method of claim 112 wherein said first indicia comprises human-readable information.
117. (New) The method of claim 112 wherein said second indicia comprises a machine-readable information.
118. (New) The method of claim 112 further comprising:
updating a database to indicate that said unique code has been utilized to complete said commercial transaction.
119. (New) The method of claim 112 wherein said document is a check.
120. (New) A system for verifying the authenticity of a document, wherein said document was previously created on a stock, comprising:
means for decoding a first indicia, that was pre-printed on said stock before creation of said document, to determine a unique code, wherein said unique code includes an encryption key;
means for decoding a second indicia that is included in said document to determine encrypted authentication information;
means for decrypting said encrypted authentication information in accordance with said encryption key; and
means for presenting said authentication information to a gatekeeper to allow said gatekeeper to selectively permit completion of a commercial transaction by a consumer.

121. (New) The system of claim 120 further comprising:
means for determining whether said unique code has been previously used to
complete another commercial transaction.

122. (New) The system of claim 120 further comprising:
means for determining whether said unique code is within an acceptable range for
said consumer.

123. (New) The system of claim 120 wherein said first indicia comprises a bar
code.

124. (New) The system of claim 120 wherein said first indicia comprises human-
readable information.

125. (New) The system of claim 120 wherein said second indicia comprises a
machine-readable information.

126. (New) The system of claim 120 further comprising:
means for updating a database to indicate that said unique code has been utilized to
complete said commercial transaction.

127. (New) The system of claim 120 wherein said document is a check.